



OUTER

from
OCCUPIED BERKELEY

Chronology

A VACANT LOT IN BERKELEY. A year ago, the site of some beautiful old buildings housing students and cooperative living groups. Now the remains of People's Park, surrounded by a wire fence, guarded by hundreds of National Guard troops.

The University claimed the area had "been the scene of hippie concentration and rising crime," and it bought the land off Telegraph Avenue between Dwight Way and Haste for \$1.3 million. The buildings were demolished last summer. For nine months the land was occupied only by cars sunk in the mud.

Then the people of the community, sick of the waste, got together and started working on the land. People's Park was born. Work began on People's Park Sunday, April 20, and before the sunset a few hundred square yards of sod covered what had been a vacant mud lot just hours earlier. The vibes in the park were beautiful. Everyone worked and sweated. Local merchants contributed money and supplies. The vibes seemed even to rub off on the police who showed up. They actually tried to dissuade some firemen from putting out a bonfire, but the fire-fighters were intent on their task, and the praise of the police for what the people had done did not keep the firemen from dousing the blaze.

Sounds like a fairy-tale, but the strange alliance with the police was not to last. Over the next three and a half weeks the park bloomed, blossomed, grew. A thousand people used the park every weekday, and on weekends as many as 4500 a day came to plant flowers and vegetables, to make plans for the turf, to do their things. Everyone who worked, planned—neighbors, old and young. A community grew along with the park. These people came to the park not to force a confrontation with the University but because the first time they had a place they felt was their own—a place where they could do real labor and have real community. A place they made with their own hands, in their own image.

The University responded. "One does not plan around the desires of 50 people," said Vice-Chancellor Earl Chelt. While the people were building their park, the University was laying the groundwork for what was to follow. Chancellor Heyns and Vice-Chancellor Chelt alternated calls for negotiations with the park people with statements like "We will have to put up a fence to reestablish the conveniently forgotten fact that the field is indeed the University's," and, "In the final analysis, we own the land."

It was obvious that the only kind of negotiations that the University was interested in were those that would fix a date for the uprooting of People's Park. Nonetheless, the People's Park negotiating committee, along with Professor Sym van der Ryn, chairman of Heyns' committee on housing and government, proposed to Heyns that People's Park be declared an environmental design field research station. This proposal was in response to a call from Heyns on Friday, May 9, Heyns said, in UC newsmag, that he would give the committee two-and-a-half days to "facilitate the design of a process to get a plan."

ON TUESDAY the 13th, it was plain that time had run out. Professor van der Ryn issued a statement which read in part, "The Chancellor gave our committee two days, over the weekend, to come up with a plan. This wasn't enough time," he said. "I think the People's Park was a great idea. The University just seems to be mad they didn't think of it first." He added that the University "didn't seem to be very interested in negotiations" about the lot.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, a meeting of local residents and students voted to protect People's Park against invaders and to form a negotiating committee to hold discussions with the administration. A member of the negotiating committee said, "We are willing to meet with the administration at any time. We are not seeking a confrontation for confrontation's sake." But the University had decided to move.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 15, at 4:30 a.m., 200 police moved on People's Park and rousted the 100 people who had spent the night. ("When we move on the land, it won't be in the middle of the night," Chelt had proclaimed.) Police quickly sealed the area surrounding the park, and by 5 a.m. the San Jose Steel Company had begun to erect an eight-foot, one-mile-long chain-link fence. It was up by noon.

At noon thousands rallied in support of People's Park. The rally proceeded from the steps of Sproul Hall onto Telegraph Avenue, and two to three thousand people marched up to Haste before being stopped by the police. The people were attacked by a barrage of tear gas before they could reclaim their park. The police waded into the crowd and began to beat people with clubs.

The people fought back with the only weapons they had—rocks, bottles and other street debris. Alameda County Sheriffs fired shotgun blasts into the crowd, and later claimed only 49 birdshot was being used.

More than 100 people were shot with birdshot, handgun and rock salt from shotguns—at least five were reportedly injured from high caliber bullet wounds. One man, James Rector, 25, of San Jose, lay in the hospital in critical condition, having been wounded in the kidney, liver, spleen and stomach. Rector had been on the roof of the Grana Bookstore at Telegraph and Dwight, watching the action below, when he "looked out and saw a policeman aiming what appeared to be a scatter gun at me. I tried to run and was shot in the left side." Another man, Alan Blanchard, co-manager of a theater, was blinded by gunfire on a nearby roof.

FRIDAY MAY 16, Gov. Reagan sent in about 2000 National Guard troops by morning and the city became an occupied war zone. California Highway Patrol busted up a morning rally in Sproul Plaza on campus, enforcing an edict from Reagan prohibiting assemblies, rallies and marches.

At least 5000 people then gathered at the Campanile on campus, and from there they marched to the central business district on Shattuck Avenue. The National Guard sealed off the area and slowly began forcing people back towards campus where the police were waiting with tear gas canisters. At a community meeting that night 2000 people voted to march on the business district again the following day. "No business as usual" was the cry. People felt that it was impossible to do business as usual.

continued on page 4

All Fences Down!



On Memorial Day, May 30, the Park Committee
Asks All to Rally in Berkeley
Together

We Will March to Peoples' Park!

James Rector is dead in Berkeley of a police bullet in his heart. A sadistic Alameda County Sheriff's deputy killed him as Rector, from a rooftop, watched the massive assault on hundreds of brothers, some of whom he had met in a park built on vacant land. He was shot by a single policeman, but Sheriff Madigan distributed the shotguns, and the University of California pulled the trigger. The University fired the police guns which shot a hundred others on the bloody day of May 15th. It swung the clubs which have wounded, even crippled, dozens of others since that day, in methodical, conscious and indiscriminate violence.

Berkeley has undergone ten days of siege by 2700 National Guardsmen and thousands of police. All political and constitutional rights have been suspended by Reagan's fiat. A reign of terror, with heavily armed police teargassing and breaking into homes and dormitories has hit the university community.

All this because the University of California expropriated Peoples Park from the Berkeley community.

All this for a park? But there are great things at stake, as we have learned with our blood. Reagan's troops and the University's police are the same as the occupation troops in Vietnam and the ghetto. The military attacks on Berkeley have been indiscriminate because the University's "enemy" is an entire community. The Telegraph Avenue community, which has long been in the forefront of the national youth revolt, built a park, People's Park, on land the University said it owned because it had a piece of paper. Land in this society is owned by men rich enough to afford such pieces of paper. Property for community use or for administrative control: this was the question posed by People's Park. Street people, fraternity students, workers, young blacks: all worked on the park. It was their belief that land belongs to the people who need and use it.

When the University fenced in the park, the morning of May 15th, thousands fought to get it back. In the face of an occupying army, more thousands are still marching and fighting a week later, day after bloody day.

There is unanimity because the entire community recognized a simple need: a park, a self-determined gathering place. A place with grass, flowers, trees, swings and sandboxes; not a million-dollar student union, not a luxurious, restricted-admission swimming pool, not more antiseptic dormitories for students who don't even want to live in the present ones, not a sterile ballroom built as a self-monument by an avaricious Regent, not tightly-structured playing fields for students who don't want them, but a People's Park. Mothers—and all citizens—recognize the same need as street people and students.

The reaction was violence, the reaction was pacification, the reaction was counter-insurgency, with murder as one weapon, because fundamentals were at stake.

A few men, a few giant corporations, own this society and run it as their private kingdom. They can't meet the elementary needs for food, clothing, decent housing, living space, equal education—people's need to govern their lives and share the wealth they produce.

As a predictable result, people try to break free and to meet their own needs: they revolt.

The Regents, the Berkeley administration and their ilk well understand that the movement of black people and young people could teach dangerous lessons to the rest of America, and they fear that in recognizing and fighting back against the special ways in which imperialism oppresses young people, we will come together in solidarity with the world revolutionary movement. The Regents, Reagan and the rest are up a creek: all their technology has failed to beat the Vietnamese. The people who built People's Park understood that we have been forced to die in an insane war; we have been trained by schools for meaningless or nonexistent jobs; we have been taught racist, lying distortions of our history. When the University looks at its undergraduates and Telegraph Avenue, it fears one thing: liberation. And it is right to fear.

For we declare openly that our demand is for space to expand our community and our living of good lives.

The two stakes, ours and theirs, crash head-on in People's Park,

Continued on page 4



ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY prepares to fire again at spectators on rooftop seconds after fatally wounding James Rector, who lies on rooftop.



Let a thousand parks bloom...



"The fence was necessary to permit the kind of rational discussion and planning that wasn't possible before."

—Earl Cheit, May 21

APPEAL

Continued from Page 1

as they have in Vietnam. Either the land belongs to the University or it belongs to the people. Either flowers will grow or guns will sprout. In Berkeley we have tried to plant gentleness and brotherhood. And the big business, law-and-order supporters of the University of California, like the rest of their class, have shown that they must resort to violence whenever people contest them for their rights. This is the pattern of Berkeley and Vietnam, Watts and Santa Domingo.

If you had been in Berkeley last week:

You would have learned the horror being shot at without warning. And you would have seen people risking getting shot to care for the wounded. You would have felt the terror of being unable to escape poison gas sprayed by a helicopter while you were bombed in by National Guardsmen. And you would have seen people risking injury to get the wounded to medical stations (the police having commandeered all ambulances). You would have seen your brothers and sisters mercilessly clubbed for the act of planting trees and flowers on "private lands." And you would have seen them defy Reagan's orders and plant new parks and keep fighting. You would have witnessed a string of lies and cowardly distortions from local, state and University officials, masking the vicious reality of a police force which operates out of all national control. And you would have heard the truth from the mouths of an oppressed community.

Berkeley has been hit hard, but it is important to remember that it is not alone. Police in Berkeley simply used the tactics they have tested in the black ghetto. This is the America we now live in.

ON THE CAMPUSES: Police have been used on 100 campuses this year. The National Guard on six. Over 4,000 demonstrators have been arrested. Black students were shot and killed at Texas Southern University and Orangeburg, S.C. On just one week of May, 1969, 200 officers and members of Students for a Democratic Society have been arrested around the country, or cramped-up chapters amounting to a nationally-coordinated political roundup.

IN THE BLACK COMMUNITIES: Friday, May 15, police shot and killed a 15-year-old black youngster in Burlington, North Carolina, during a revolt that broke out in a high school. The National Guard has occupied 70 black communities over the last four years. Lawmen have killed over 200 black people and injured thousands. Guardsmen occupied the black ghetto of Wilmington, Delaware for nine months. High schools are occupied by police every day.

Since the Black Panther Party is the major national stronghold of black resistance, it has been hit the hardest. Police have killed 11 Panthers, and arrested over a thousand in the last six months alone.

IN THE FACTORIES: They don't hesitate to fire, club and gas when workers fight back against insupportable authorities and low wages. In Richmond, to take just one example, a striking oil worker, Richard Jones, was killed by a scab truck last January.

America has become a land of political prisoners—because a movement has begun to challenge the insane economic and military realities of this country. The greater our movement, and the less the State is able to rule by consent, the more it resorts to brute force. The State has gone berserk, but there is method in their madness, for they have a world empire to protect. That empire includes the home front. So James Rector, shotgrouned on a Berkeley rooftop by an Alameda County policeman, lies dead. And now of us is safe unless we create a system that meets human needs.

The alternative to revolution is the police state. But we should not demand James Rector will opportunistic statements meant to make a martyr of a brother. What should be remembered is that he used Peoples' Park, beloved by so many, as a de facto prison, and now he is dead.

All of us must begin to realize the situation of which Brother Rector's death is only the most visible symbol. We call for outrage at the atrocities performed upon us, our brothers and our sisters. Begin yesterday.

We demand, and we will fight for:

- People's Park back to the People.
- All troops out of Vietnam, the black ghettos, and Berkeley.
- Amnesty to all political prisoners. Free them, bring back Eldridge.
- Build Parks everywhere.
- All fences down.
- The land belongs to the people.
- All institutions to the people.
- All wealth to all the people.

Sunday, May 25: March from Tilden Park to James Rector Memorial services in Berkeley.

Monday, May 26, and Tuesday, May 27: Statewide STRIKE on all U.C. and other college campuses.

FRIDAY, MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 30: 50,000 people in Berkeley, including a detachment of the National Guard, to tear down the fence.

We're going to win!



OUTCRY! (#2) is free. More copies available from the Radical Student Union, Eshleman Hall, University of California, Berkeley. Phone: (415) 626-8222. The two issues have cost more than \$2500. People who use the paper should pay for it. Please send contributions, as large as you can, so we can print more. Brothers and sisters: reproduce any or all of OUTCRY! First printing: 100,000.

CHRONOLOGY

continued from page 1

portant to acquaint the community with the brutal and repressive tactics of the police. With all of the anti coming down on the campus and street communities, it was decided that the rest of Berkeley should be made to feel some of the pressure.

SATURDAY MAY 17: People gathered on Shattuck at 11 a.m. and found most of the stores closed and the street pretty well deserted. They marched around the street for about an hour before police and National Guard troops began herding them up to the campus. A short rally was held, and it was decided that on Sunday everyone would meet at Merrick Hospital for a silent vigil.

People were continually harassed throughout the day, particularly on Telegraph Avenue, where the police again used gas and clubs to disperse crowds. But the National Guard, obviously obeying orders reluctantly, behaved like the unwilling slaves they are. Extensive contact between youth in and out of uniform produced results surprising to both sides.

SUNDAY MAY 18: People began arriving for the vigil at Merrick Hospital shortly after noon, but found that all access routes were blocked by the army. Spontaneously, people began to break off into smaller groups and went off to establish parts of the city to establish new People's Parks. The vacant lots created by BART and the city were the scenes of a number of "plant-in's." At Hearst and Grove the people planted trees and flowers and raised a pole with a sign of top reading "Peoples Park Annex #1."

Shortly after the sign was raised the police and Guard used clubs and bayonets to move the people off the lot. The police then ripped out all the plants that had been planted.

Another group of people marched to the north side of campus, to what is an upper-middle-class neighborhood, passing on the way to plant small trees and flowers at many points along the route. The police followed behind the march pulling up the plants as they had done at Peoples Park Annex #1.

Many people spent time over the weekend talking to National Guardsmen, many of whom were openly sympathetic to the park struggle. Some of the Guardsmen bivouacked in People's Park told demonstrators that they were watering and weeding the garden every day. Guardsmen in the city were deliberately negligent in following orders. Relations between the guard and the park supporters were generally quite friendly except when contrasted with the relations with the police.

MONDAY MAY 19: Monday was another "No business as usual" day. People were gathered on Shattuck by several hundred Guardsmen and police who contained them by cutting off the ends of all the access streets. People who were cut off from the main body when the police blocked the access street were beaten indiscriminately and many were arrested.

Police used tear gas on campus to disperse marchers there and in one charge by the National Guard a man was stabbed by a bayonet. The military Guardsman upon being taunted by the crowd yelled back at them, "Eat me" and "Shut my cock, you punks."

At 10 o'clock in the evening James Rector died of his wounds.

TUESDAY MAY 20: Repression got much heavier on campus. A vigil to honor James Rector, led by some faculty members, tried marching off campus at Bancroft and Telegraph but was blocked by a ring of Guardsmen and police that had sealed off the entire campus. Police then herded the bulk of the march into lower Sproul Plaza where people then found themselves trapped. About 15 minutes later a National Guard helicopter flew over the crowd spraying massive doses of a gas which left people's skin burning, eyes pouring forth tears, and which caused many people to vomit. Eighty-five people were arrested on this day alone, including one National Guardsman who threw down his rifle and refused to obey further orders.

WEDNESDAY MAY 21: A serpentine march around campus ended at Heyn's house on the north side, following a few tear gas attacks by police. The crowd sat on the ground in front of the house facing a hundred or more bayonet-wielding, gas-masked, rioting guardsmen and an equal number of police. Both preceding and following a two minute silence for James Rector, songs were sung and cries went up from the crowd for the guardsmen and police to remove their weapons. When the Guard finally did remove them the people clapped and cheered and yelled to the soldiers: "If you want to go home, smile." Most of them smiled at the crowd and at one another. Calm prevailed until the crowd dispersed on its own at around 4 p.m. Some people went up to College and Ashby, a minor business district, where police in cruising patrols would jump from their cars and pull people out of the crowd to arrest them.

At it in the evening, a small riot broke out at the dormitories overlooking People's Park between dorm people and Alameda Sheriffs, California Highway Patrol, and SF Tac Squad. The police had attempted to enter a dorm to remove a sign from an eighth story window which read, "Fuck the Pigs." The dorm people poured into the street and confronted the police. Before it was finally over more people had been arrested and beaten. The arrest toll for the 7-day battle had reached 289 by the time the 10 o'clock curfew went into effect.

THURSDAY MAY 22: During a march, following a riot rally at Sproul, police and Guardsmen herded nearly 500 people into the Bank of America parking lot on Center Street. The people were all arrested for failure to disperse and illegal assembly. This was the first time that the mass arrests to break

up a march had been used. In a mass meeting held at 8 p.m., the people decided on tactics for the next week. It was decided that next Friday Memorial Day would be Tear Down the Fences Day in Berkeley.

Alameda County District Attorney Frank Coakley announced that arrests would not end with a return to normal in Berkeley; he said that his office is making a "comprehensive and thorough investigation" of events in Berkeley and that "appropriate action" will be taken "as has been done in other episodes of mass violence and criminality."

Over 300 faculty members had signed a petition pleading not to teach while the city was under military occupation, some of them confronted Governor Reagan in his office in Sacramento. Statewide actions of solidarity with Berkeley had involved thousands of students in San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Cruz, Stanford, Riverside, and San Jose. Faced with a statewide crisis, and outraged cries from liberals influential in the state (some of whose children had been passed by the National Guard while on a picnic near the campus), Reagan withdrew most of the Berkeley curfew and ordered nearly all the National Guardsmen. Many of them promised students they'd return—on a death mission.

With hundreds of injuries, a death, a blinding, nearly a thousand arrests, and swearing anger in the hearts of all, Berkeley prepares for another week of struggle, and called on all supporters throughout the state to plan to come to the city for a Memorial Day Celebration.

The Park is not dead. James Rector and our former selves are dead.

"Financial commitments to build the field were obtained several months ago. But we didn't decide when to move until after the People's Park was started."

—Earl Cheit, May 21

HELP

Legal Defense: 2717 San Pablo, Oakland, 896-3033. BAIL MONEY NEEDED BADLY!

To be a witness or interview a witness: 843-3325.

If shot by police: 843-0779.

To file witness reports: Third Floor, Eshleman Hall, Campus.

Peoples Park Bail Fund: Free Church, 220 Parker. BAIL MONEY NEEDED!

In the mass arrest, \$800 apiece for \$300.

TO GUARDSMEN

ALL OVER THE STATE

Join us on Friday, Memorial Day, May 30, to form a massive contingent in the march of 50,000 to get back our park. The more Guardsmen from all over the state who join us, the better we can know our friends and isolate our enemies. You are not hired killers like the police. You are under orders to occupy our community against your will. You know we are not America's enemies. Don't let them turn you into pigs.

WHO OWNS THE PARK?

Someday a petty official will appear with a piece of paper, called a land title, which states that the University of California owns the land of the People's Park. Where did that piece of paper come from? What is it worth?

A long time ago the Costanoan Indians lived in the area now called Berkeley. They had no concept of land ownership. They believed that the land was under the care and guardianship of the people who used it and lived on it.

Catholic missionaries took the land away from the Indians. No agreements were made. No papers were signed. They ripped it off in the name of God.

The Mexican Government took the land away from the Church. The Mexican Government had guns and an army. God's word was not as strong.

The Mexican Government wanted to pretend that it was not the army that guarded them the land. They drew up some papers which said they legally owned it. No Indians signed those papers.

The Americans were not fooled by the papers. They had a stronger army than the Mexicans. They beat them in a war and took the land. Then they wrote some papers of their own and forced the Mexicans to sign them.

The American Government sold the land to some white settlers. The Government gave the settlers a piece of paper called a land title in exchange for some money. All this time there were still some Indians around who claimed the land. The American army killed most of them.

The piece of paper saying who owned the land was passed around among rich white men. Sometimes the white men were interested in taking care of the land. Usually they were just interested in making money. Finally some very rich men, who run the University of California, bought the land.

Immediately these men destroyed the houses that had been built on the land. The land went the way of so much other land in America. It became a parking lot.

We are building a park on the land. We will take care of it and guard it. We will tell them, "Your land title is covered with blood. We won't touch it. Your people ripped off the land from the Indians a long time ago. If you want it back now, you will have to fight for it again."